

forward in social development, underlying all possibility of reciprocal action and feeling among equals. The mutual support which the children give each other in this common action towards grown-ups is (in spite of an appearance of mere disorderliness to the casual outside observer) itself part and parcel of their growth towards co-operation and love within the social group. It is an imirrense step forward on the attitude of the child dependent for love and approval upon the parents only, and feeling nothing but fear and rivalry towards his fellows.

It is not, of course, a single step taken once for all. It is a gradual change in attitude, with many dramatic moments, but slow in consolidation. Not until after six or seven years of age does it become stable. In the middle years of childhood, however, the child is characteristically far less dependent upon the approval or disapproval of adults than upon the praise or contempt of his companions. Loyalty to his fellows becomes his chief virtue, and the grown-up is largely shut out of the intimate circle of his feelings and values. Every group of boon companions of ten to twelve years of age will have its "secrets" (and very often a secret "language") jealously guarded from the prying eyes of adults. Their morality is largely a morality of equals—but of equals banded together against the tyrant adults. These may be tolerated and respected, and may, if they are sensible and "decent", even be raised to the pedestal of heroes. But they will rarely be admitted to the inner fellowship of the children.

The occasional banding together of the children, in these records, to challenge the power and authority of the grown-ups, is thus the first hint of an essential and normal thread of development which goes on throughout the later years

of childhood.

It is to be seen, however, that the psychological mechanisms of *displacement* and *projection* are at work in this group hostility against adults, also, just as essentially as in the hostility to rival groups. It is not merely that the children derive strength from the unity of numbers. It is also that the hostility and aggression of each child member of the group is turned outward on to the enemy—in this case, the grown-up. For the moment, they hate Mrs. I. or Miss D., not each other. They are able to love each other the more